Greeting Address of the Federal Board of the Pirate Party Germany at the Pirate Security Conference 2025

Dear guests,

I extend warm greetings to you all from the Federal Board of the Pirate Party Germany. Historian Oliver Weber stated in his contribution to to the german newspaper Merkur in October 2024: “Globalized, liberal democracy has lost control over itself, and it is impossible for it to regain that control.

This axiom underpins much of the current crisis discourse. In a strange way, it continues the philosophy of globalization from the 1990s and 2000s—only now, all enthusiasm has faded. If we remove the joy from the development, many authors could still agree with Bill Clinton's dictum that globalization is the 'economic equivalent of natural forces, like wind or water,' or at least with Tony Blair's response in 2005, when he retorted to critics of globalization that one might as well discuss whether summer should follow spring.”

Weber further referenced British political scientist and sociologist Colin Crouch, who openly articulated the problem: the 'decision to de-globalize' and the 'breakdown of many economic relationships' can only lead to 'further upheavals' and disasters. In essence, globalization cannot be reversed. This encapsulates the tension and uncertainty of our current times well. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has given rise to the infamous term "Zeitenwende" (turning point) coined by Chancellor Scholz. It seems he is likely surprised by his own words, as this invasion marks the end of an era and a cherished worldview for him and many others who were politically active in the 1980s. We currently live in a time of multiple crises, and an early federal election is on the horizon in Germany.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Chancellor has almost given the impression of being personally offended that, now that he is finally in office, he does not find the necessary calm foreign policy environment that his predecessor enjoyed in the eyes of the German public. Observers might feel that he and his SPD would have preferred to remain in the lethargy of the Merkel years. They sought the office and status but shied away from the responsibilities that come with it.

Unfortunately, this does not apply solely to the Chancellor and the SPD. The German Greens have now implemented their energy transition, funded by billions. They, along with the German energy transition, are supported by a multitude of state-funded NGOs. The problem is that this energy transition has relied on Russian gas and Chinese industries. Instead of reaping the promises of a new green world alongside many state-funded NGOs, the German government now faces the greatest economic crisis in recent history as a consequence of its inaction.

As China and Russia closely collaborate against our Western democracies, we have already gotten a first taste of the recent attacks on critical infrastructure in European states. We must not overlook the events in the Middle East. The Hamas attack on Israel has brought the old face of anti-Semitism back to the surface among many supposedly progressive actors in the West. This conflict between the democratic state of Israel and the terrorist organization Hamas is part of a global struggle against democracies worldwide. Journalist Enno Lenze effectively illustrated the collaboration between Hamas and the Islamic Republic of Iran against Israel in a talk at the Pirate Security Conference in 2021.

Today, we witness a political left in Germany that willingly marches alongside Islamists. The images of two demonstration marches in Essen—one against the AfD and the other against Israel, which greeted each other enthusiastically—should give every democrat pause for thought. We are currently experiencing an "axis of autocracies," a term I first introduced at the Pirate Security Conference in 2023 in a talk about Iran, which is fundamentally composed of China, Russia, and the Islamic Republic of Iran, actively working to undermine our democratic values, particularly by fostering distrust in democratic processes within free societies. For these states, the ongoing freedom struggle of a free Ukrainian society against an autocrat in Moscow is a thorn in their side. This Ukrainian fight for freedom just like a resilient Israeli society, many are disturbed by this in their ideological comfort as they preach in front of a keyboard.

To escape the current ideological paralysis of the debates, an event like the Pirate Security Conference is very important. That is why I am pleased to welcome so many high-profile speakers from around the world here. Free debate spaces and open discourse are more important than ever today, especially in times when these are being suppressed by entrepreneurs or loud outcries, whether on the internet or at universities. I wish everyone two days filled with good presentations and fruitful discussions afterwards. Because democracy and a free society thrive on open debate and the exchange of information to create a better world